

# THE COASTLAND TIMES

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## NEXT MEETING OF SAA TO BE IN PLYMOUTH

Washington County To Be Host to Quarterly Meeting, Dr. Ralph Says

The overdue quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee of the Southern Albemarle Association is to be held in Plymouth sometime about April 1, Dr. W. T. Ralph of Belhaven, the Association President, said this week. The date of the meeting will be announced within a few days.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners will be host to the six-county meeting, which will include some 50 representatives from the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell and Washington.

Among the chief topics of interest that will be before the meeting will be the state's plan for bridges, and the improvement of U.S. 264 in Hyde County. Several state highway officials will be invited to be present.

The complete list of members of the Executive Committee from each of the member counties was announced this week by Dr. Ralph, as follows:

The list of Executive Committees of the Southern Albemarle Association is as follows: The first named is the county Vice President:

Beaufort: Mrs. Scott Topping, Pantego; Vann Latham and Mrs. James Younce of Belhaven; Wayland Sermons, Washington; Luther Paul, Pike Road; A. D. Swindell, Pantego; Mrs. G. W. Marsh, Bath; Mrs. Dan Windley, Aurora; Mrs. John Winfield, Yeatesville.

DARE COUNTY: Melvin R. Daniels, L. L. Swain, M. K. Fearing, D. V. Meekins, Mrs. Donis White of Manteo; W. S. White of Manns Harbor; Mrs. Daisy Midgett, Nags Head; Mrs. M. L. Burrus, Hatteras; Mrs. Dewey Wise, Stumpy Point.

Hyde County: N. W. Shelton, Swan Quarter; Charlie J. Cahoon, H. L. Sadler and Mrs. Russell Swindell of Swan Quarter; Mrs. Ella Murray, Fairfield; Mrs. M. Noble, Scranton; Mrs. Ben Leechville; Leon Bal-Lake Landing.

Martin County: A. Corey, Asheville; Mrs. Clara Gaines and A. W. Lilley, Jamesville; J. H. Gray, Sr., and Mrs. Charlie Gray, Robertsonville; Robert H. Cowan, Henry A. Johnson and Mrs. E. H. Peele, Williamston; one vacancy to be filled.

Tyrrell County: Julian H. Swain, Mr. and Mrs. Borden McCleese, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cohoon; W. J. White, Mrs. Effie A. Brickhouse, Mrs. Blanche W. Cohoon and Paul Liverman, all of Columbia.

WASHINGTON COUNTY: Harry W. Pritchett, H. O. Chesson, Mrs. C. N. Davenport, Mrs. J. M. Davenport of Creswell; B. G. Campbell and Mrs. J. R. Campbell of Plymouth; E. O. Arnold, Wade Hardison and Mrs. Cedric Davenport of Roper.

## MANY GIFTS MADE TO MANTEO SCHOOL

A. O. Ayers Expresses Appreciation for Contributions Made During the Year

Several civic organizations, as well as individuals, have shown their interest in the Manteo school this year by making contributions. The faculty, the local school committee, and the administrative officers of the school deeply appreciate both the interest and the gifts, it was expressed this week by A. O. Ayres, principal.

The P.T.A. has given a duplicator, a microscope, and a tape recorder to the school. The Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion placed American flags in each room in the primary building. The Lion's Club contributed paint and labor to improve the appearance of the gymnasium. Various individuals who asked that their names be withheld have contributed in other ways. For each addition—and each was badly needed—the school is grateful.

## TOURIST BUREAU TO MEET BUXTON, MARCH 24

As has been the custom since its beginning, the Board of Directors of the Dare County Tourist Bureau will hold their spring meeting on Hatteras Island, at the Cape Point Restaurant at Buxton, it was announced this week by Aycock Brown, secretary to the bureau. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 24. Lawrence L. Swain of Manteo is chairman of the board.

## RECORDER'S CT. HAS FULL HOUSE FOR FIGHT TRIAL

Last Saturday night proved to be a trying one for officer Donnie Twyne when he tried to make an arrest at the Nags Head Casino. Mr. Twyne attempted to arrest Ralph Beasley, 19, who had had a scuff with Lathan Mann, and was prevented from making the arrest when David James Beasley, brother to Ralph, and Garfield Curles joined in and lifted the pants, shirt and coat off Mr. Twyne.

Dare County Recorder's Court was full of spectators on Tuesday afternoon to hear the testimony in the case.

According to the testimony, Mr. Twyne was on stairs at the time the fight between Ralph Beasley and Lathan Mann started, and the fight was over when he got downstairs in the Casino. Mr. Twyne told Mann to get outside, as he was pretty drunk. "Then Ralph Beasley came up and hit me and then I hit him with a blackjack," Mr. Twyne said. "After that I don't think Ralph hit me any more, but then James Beasley, Jr., grabbed me from behind and someone threw a coat over my head and started hitting me in the face.

Ras Westcott, operator of the Casino, came downstairs about the time Garfield Curles started hitting Twyne. "Mr. Curles was throwing it to him in the face," Mr. Westcott said. "I told him to quit, and then he started swinging at me and I ducked. The second time he glanced one off my eye, and it was sore on Sunday."

Somewhere in all the scuffle Chief of Police M. C. Mitchell appeared on the scene. Ralph Beasley grabbed him around the neck from behind and locked his legs around Mr. Mitchell's body. "Mitchell was laying in the floor when I saw him," Mr. Westcott testified.

Ralph Beasley says he didn't strike Mr. Twyne after he (Beasley) was hit with a blackjack. "I fell out to the floor colder than a cucumber," Ralph Beasley testified. Mr. Twyne had told him that he was under arrest. According to Curles' testimony, he (Curles) was trying to aid Ralph, whose head was bleeding, when the scuffle between Twyne, Curles, and James Beasley began.

"They were treating you rough, weren't they?" was Judge Baum's remark when officer Twyne offered as evidence his torn clothes. Twyne lost both his gun and blackjack, which was found in two pieces later, during the fight. Mr. Twyne then took officer Mitchell's gun while he was laying in the floor, and someone took that away from him, too.

All three of the boys, Ralph Beasley, David James Beasley, Jr., and Garland Curles, were charged with four counts: (1) assaulting an officer, (2) resisting arrest, (3) interfering with an officer making an arrest, and (4) causing a disturbance in a public place.

David James and Ralph Beasley were found guilty of all four counts. The sentence was six months on the roads, suspended on condition each pay a fine of \$50 and the costs of court, and that they not be found on the premises of the Nags Head Casino for a period of three years. James was also guilty of a charge of speeding 65 miles per hour, the fine being \$10 and the costs of court.

In the case against Curles, he was found guilty of assault on an officer and inflicting injuries, and of creating disturbance in a public place. The sentence for that count was 60 days, suspended on condition that he pay a fine of \$40 and the costs of court, and that he not be found on the Casino premises for 12 months. He was also found guilty of assault on Ras Westcott, for which the sentence was 30 days, suspended on payment of \$10 and costs.

Other cases were as follows: Bill Pearson, charged with assault on a female, Thelma Wise, was dismissed of the charges. According to her testimony, "we were just wrestling and playing around outside of the Casino."

According to the testimony of Ras Westcott, who saw the incident, Pearson knocked her down outside of the door. "Well, I don't know which is right, the man or the woman," Judge Baum commented. "But I would think the woman was more conscious of what was going on," he dismissed the case.

Walter Wilbur Spencer, charged with failing to yield the right of way on the highway, paid a fine of \$25 and costs.

## A NAGS HEAD NATIVE RETIRES FROM SERVICE



Chief Boatswain Ernest L. Tillett, USCG, of Deep Creek, Va., (Rt. 3, Box 227F, Portsmouth) retired from the U. S. Coast Guard in Norfolk last week after 29 years of continuous service, most of it spent on sea duty.

He is a native of Nags Head, N. C., where he was born January 24 1906. Prior to his enlisting in the Coast Guard in 1925, Tillett worked as a fisherman.

He went on run-runner patrol out of New York aboard the old destroyer McDougal, and three years later was transferred to the destroyer Manning based at Norfolk.

He stayed in the Norfolk area until 1937 when he was assigned to the Coast Guard tug Guard at Seattle. Between then and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Tillett served aboard the cutters Atalanta, Morris and Bonham all operating in the Alaskan area.

When war broke out he was aboard the buoy tender Hemlock based at Ketchikan, Alaska, and remained aboard the ship until 1943 when he was given command of the 180-foot buoy tender Woodbine working out of Norfolk and later San Juan, P. R. Early in 1944 the Woodbine was ordered to the South Pacific where the ship handled aids to navigation for the U. S. fleet.

A year later, Chief Boatswain Tillett was made commanding officer of the buoy tender Speedwell at Norfolk. Late in 1945 he took command of the 190-foot tender Orchid at Norfolk, and sailed her to the Philippines several months later handling aids to navigation work there until 1947 when the ship was turned over to the Philippine government.

Tillett then returned to the States and was assigned as search See TILLET, Page Four

## SWAN ADD TO SCENIC NATIONAL SEASHORE

Wild Geese Scheduled To Migrate During March Full Moon

Thousands of swan, considerably more than in former years, have been feeding at the Bodie Island and Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge areas recently. Appearance of these great white waterfowl in these waters have provided an unusual scenic attraction for visitors to Oregon Inlet and the Cape Hatteras National Seashore region.

Persons driving along the new all-paved Hatteras highway pass adjacent to the ponds of Bodie Island near the Lighthouse and through the refuge where the swan have been feeding.

Swan have absolute protection from hunters and the great waterfowl seem to know that they will not be harmed. It is not unusual to get close to the swan because as one visitor stated, "They are as gentle as farmyard fowls."

Most of the swan feeding at Bodie Island and in the wildlife refuge spent part of the winter season in Currituck Sound waters, the haven for many thousands of waterfowl each year.

Since the hunting season ended early in January the Canada geese have also become gentle and great flocks of them feed close to the highway to the National Seashore as it passes through the Pea Island Wildlife refuge.

Canada geese are beginning their migratory flights to far north breeding and nesting grounds from the waters and sanctuaries of the North Carolina coast. The greatest migration is scheduled for the full moon of March.

"That is the time," according to Fred Latham of Belhaven, "that wild geese leave local waters—always on the full moon of March." Latham should know because part of his Beaufort County farm is set aside as a sanctuary for geese and waterfowl.

## PAGEANT TRYOUTS SATURDAY NIGHT HIGH SCHOOL GYM

Tomorrow night will be a big night for many Roanoke Islanders, when they gather in the Manteo High School gymnasium to tryout for roles in the 14th season of The Lost Colony. Meeting at 8 p.m., the tryouts will be held under the supervision of Samuel Selden, director of dramatic arts at the University of North Carolina.

About 100 roles are expected to be filled by Islanders this year, it was announced by Lost Colony manager Dick Jordan recently. The cast is made up of about 200, so one-half will be local talent.

Rehearsals will begin the first week in June, and those who play major roles will be needed full time for several weeks until the opening of the show.

In addition to Dr. Selden, Clifton Britton and Mrs. Irene Smart Rains will be on hand to assist in the tryouts. The majority of parts played by Islanders will be Indians or colonists, and some, of course, will be given minor speaking roles.

The statewide tryouts will be held in Chapel Hill during mid-spring.

## OCRACOKE'S CANDIDATE FOR REPRESENTATIVE



C. F. BOYETTE, first candidate to announce from Hyde County this year for Representative, is Ocraoke Island's second offering for the House in more than 100 years. Ocraoke Township comprises Ocraoke Island, which is a subtropical recreation paradise some 30 miles off the Hyde County mainland. It has about 750 inhabitants, or about one-eighth of the county's population. Now that it has become more accessible through ferry service and a road down the Outer Banks which enable its people to drive around to the county seat in a short time its people wish more participation in county affairs. Mr. Boyette, a University graduate, a teacher for 17 years, a former farmer, believes he is well qualified from his experience to the farmers and the schools of the needs of the fisherman, Hyde County. A most interesting campaign is anticipated.

## 1949 FORD RAMS JEEP STALLED ON BEACH ROAD

Tommy Burl Lynch, 20, a Coast Guardsman from Oregon Inlet, driving a 1949 Ford south on highway 158 last Saturday morning, collided with a '48 Willys Jeep driven by Wilbur Donald Spencer, 19, colored, of Manteo.

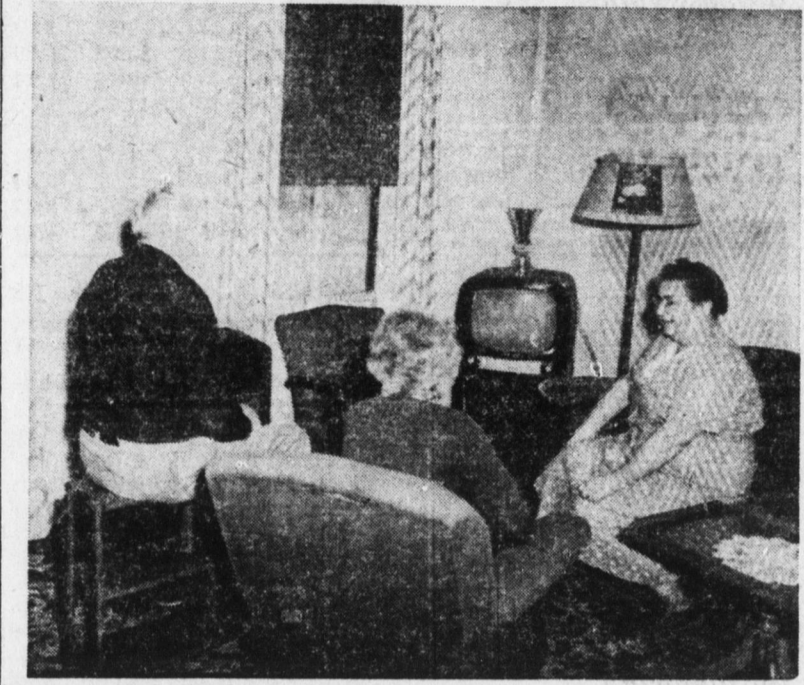
Spencer had backed the jeep out onto the highway about one-fourth mile north of the Kitty Hawk road, where he was loading cement from a cement mixing machine, and the jeep's gearshift stuck and prevented him from getting the machine off the highway in time. Lynch rammed into the jeep, which was owned by Belton Burrus of Manteo.

Highway patrolman A. W. Andrews of Elizabeth City investigated the accident. Charges of failing to grant the right-of-way were preferred against Spencer. No one was hurt. Damage to the Ford was estimated at \$450, and to the jeep \$25.

## A SHOE REPAIR SHOP NOW OPEN IN MANTEO

The prayers of so many people for a shoe repair shop in Manteo, seem to have been answered. Donald Midgett has come back home and settled down after many years in New York and has opened a shop next to Jones Wholesale Co. It is equipped with modern machinery. Donald is the son of Joe Etheridge Midgett who lived in Manteo for many years, and who is well known in Coast Guard circles. He lives on County Street, and has a wife and four children.

## MRS. MIDGETT WATCHES TV WITH GUESTS



MRS. ELLIS MIDGETT (right) sits and watches television with a couple of her patients at the Beacon Nursing Home in Manteo. Mrs. Midgett has been running the home since 1949, and at present is assisted by her daughter, Jacquelyn, who is a trained nurse. (Photo by Roger Meekins.)

## Old Folks Now Get Better Care In Small Homes, Instead Of Institutions

Mrs. Ellis Midgett's Beacon Nursing Home in Manteo Typical Example of Changes in Care of Infirm.

By Roger Meekins

An old man, with the aid of a cane, hobbled feebly onto a screened-in porch and weakly sat down in a cushioned chair. Two brightly-colored love birds flew out of their cage and fluttered about the porch. A considerably younger woman came out and adjusted a pillow behind his head.

In another part of the house an elderly woman walked into the living room, perched herself in a soft chair, and turned her head toward the television set. The younger woman came in and adjusted the picture.

"That's good just like that," said the elderly woman.

"Fine! How are you feeling this morning?" asked the younger woman.

"Oh, I guess I'm all right," came the reply.

"Well, dinner will be ready in a little while," the younger woman told her in a daughterly fashion.

"Just take your time, honey," the elderly woman said. "I'm not hungry just now."

These old people were only two of thousands throughout the state who are being cared for in small nursing homes, where a homelike atmosphere can be created for them. Here a great many of them will live out the rest of their lives, and although not at their old homes, they will be assured that somebody will be responsible for their welfare. Their wishes and desires will be satisfied in every way possible.

They are no longer with their families, yet the life created for them will be the best substitute that can be arranged.

With increasing research and knowledge of sociology, the State Department of Public Welfare continues to make improvements in the care of the aged.

Along with the trend today of smaller families than was common a generation or two ago goes the problem of care for those members of the family going into senescence. The smaller families are in a great many cases not properly prepared to care for the elderly people, the number of which is steadily increasing be-

cause of prolonged life, resulting from medical discoveries and the living of a more hygienic life. It used to be that with a large family there was always someone at home to look after the older people.

Through the years many massive institutions throughout the state have been built to take care of the old people, but more recent discoveries have seemed to indicate that better care can be had in smaller homes with fewer patients, where a more homelike atmosphere is created, rather than an institutionalized, routine method of treating human beings. Old folks are just like any other people—every one has a distinctive personality and requires personalized treatment. So the great institutions, sometimes called county homes, sanitoriums, home for the aged, or any other of a half dozen different names, are gradually being abandoned for the change to a better way of treating those in senescence.

In order to meet this recognized need for a better method of treatment, the State Department of Public Welfare is going about licensing various qualified homes throughout the state to do the job of taking care of old folks. One such home exists in Dare County—that of Mrs. Ellis Midgett of Manteo, the Beacon nursing home. Her home can be used as a fairly typical example of what is being done for the old folks.

### How it Works

The set-up works this way. A person desiring to be licensed as a nursing home makes an application to the county welfare department, and is in turn passed on to the state department, which sends an inspector to look over the situation. The home must be inspected for its health conditions—sunlight, air, heating, plumbing etc. Along with this must come a report from the local fire warden. Further, the home environmental situation must be gone through thoroughly, to check any family diseases, and emotional situation—a social history of the family.

The motives of the person See OLD FOLKS, Page Four

## WOODS FIRE WAG'S TOUGH BATTLE ON ROANOKE ISLAND

Several Homes Threatened But Neighbors Came to Rescue Wednesday Evening

Valiant work on behalf of many people finally brought a large woods fire under control on Roanoke Island last Wednesday evening, and saved three homes in immediate danger. The origin of the fire which broke out to the rear of the Brown Etheridge home, has not been satisfactorily determined but is generally believed to have come from left-over embers of previous burnings. Carelessness is so much in order these days, and as no one is ever prosecuted for unlawful burnings, which often result in great damage and loss, that very few people indeed ever exercise care, or put out fires when they leave them.

This fire threatened the home of Mr. Etheridge and of his son-in-law, Gordon Riddick, as well as a colored house known as the Baker home, at the boundary of the Airport. Some 40 or 50 acres of land were burned over. Few people were at their homes in the vicinity at the time the fire started.

Fire Warden Frankie Hemilwright came over from Manns Harbor with several men, and the Manteo Fire Department went to the scene in force. The crew of the West Virginia Pulp & Paper Company with manager William Ernst Jr., came to the scene with liberal aid and stood by to the last. The men of Nags Head Coast Guard station, local high school boys, and numerous neighbors came to help.

Mrs. Brown Etheridge who finally got her nerves settled Thursday morning when she looked out and found the fire hadn't got loose again, says she wants to thank everyone for their help. "Words can't express how grateful we feel," she said.

And there are many other home owners living near by who will say amen. It would have been a big disaster, had there been a big disaster, had there See FIRE, Page Five

## IMPROVED RAMPS ARE PROMISED FOR FERRIES

Short Ramps Have Caused Damage To Many Cars Leaving Ferry

Short landing ramps at the Oregon inlet ferry docks will soon be replaced by longer ramps, it is announced.

The short ramps which make the approaches to the ferry slant at an angle of from 15 to 35 percent, depending on the depth of tide, have resulted in damage to hundreds of automobiles going to and from Hatteras Island. The damage, sometimes results in crushed mufflers, but usually it is the exhaust or tail pipe that is crushed, making it necessary for replacements.

Clark Stratton, chief of operations for the southeastern division of the National Park Service here this week said that he had been advised by district highway officials that the ramps are now being constructed and will be placed at the ferry docks on or about April 1.

In the meantime some motorists, irritated by the damage caused to their automobiles as a result of the improperly designed and short ramps have threatened to "sue the state," for the destruction of their exhaust pipes, mufflers and bumpers.

Stratton stated that he had been advised also that arrangements had been completed by the Department of Interior and the N. C. Highway Commission to acquire two government Utility Landing Craft which will be converted into ferries similar to the "Governor Umstead" now operating at Oregon Inlet on the waterlink of the new all-paved Hatteras Highway. The new ferries will be in commission before the peak of the travel season which is expected to show considerable increase between Nags Head and Hatteras Island this year as result of the new and now operating Cape Hatteras National Seashore Area.

## TOURIST BUREAU HANDLES 500 REPLIES THIS WEEK

Tuesday the Dare County Tourist Bureau answered 188 inquiries which were received over the week end. "It looks as if we may have about 500 inquiries to answer by the end of the week," Aycock Brown said on Wednesday. The Bureau received many inquiries on Monday and Tuesday which had not been answered at that time.

## MANTEO'S BEACON NURSING HOME



THE BEACON NURSING HOME in Manteo, operated by Mrs. Ellis Midgett, is one of the many throughout the state where some old people will spend a good many of their days. In these smaller homes they are subjected to treatment in a more homelike manner, and their lives are made happier by a more suitable environment. (Photo by Roger Meekins.)